



USACE CADD NEWSLETTER



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Contents

CADD
 Newsletter.....1
 Center FY01 Program....1
 HQUSACE
 Restructuring1
 MicroStation Workspace
 Status2
 Standards Implementation
 Plan.....2
 FAC Accomplishments...2
 BIUC Presentation.....3
 Relatively Painless.....3
 Call for Articles.....4

CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions and/or comments to jean.a.mcginin@usace.army.mil.

CADD/GIS Technology Center FY01 Program

The FY01 Program for the CADD/GIS Technology Center was approved at the Board of Directors meeting on 27 September 2000. There are 34 projects in the program; three of the approved projects were submitted by members of Corps Field Action CADD (FAC) Groups. Projects which might be of particular interest to Corps personnel are #1.037, Update of Dredging-Related Terms in the SDS; #1.005, A/E GIS and CADD Deliverables Standards Update; #1.024, Document Tools for Producing and Publishing Engineering Documents; #1.026, Evaluate Quantity Takeoff for CADD-Cost Software Integration; and # 1.035, CADD-based Circuiting Tool. Projects descriptions will be posted on the Center Web Page in the near future.

HQUSACE Restructuring Update

The HQUSACE restructuring is proceeding as planned. All of the HQUSACE staff except for 60 members of Engineering and Construction Division have moved to 441 G Street. Ten persons from E&C are in the G Street location, and the remaining personnel will be moving out of the Pulaski Building on 1 November. The third floor of the Kingman Building is being renovated for this contingent and the construction is scheduled to be completed at that time.

MicroStation Workspace Status

The Center has received the Beta version of Workspace 2.0 from Bentley and it is currently under review. This new release addresses sheet files, attribute links, and multiline capability. All Workspace users' training materials were updated to reflect the changes between R1.4 and R1.8 of the Standard. Some new exercises base on field drawings were developed. For more information on the workspace contact Steve Spangler at 601-634-3104. Version 1.4 of the MicroStation Workspace is also posted on the Center Web Site (tsc.wes.army.mil) and available for download. Instructions for installation are included.

Implementation Plan for the A/E/C CADD Standards

The Corps Systems Field Action CADD (FAC) Group is developing an Implementation Plan for the A/E/C CADD Standards. The Standards were developed by the CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center). This plan will be an aid to districts throughout USACE which have not yet been able to implement the Standards. A policy memorandum was signed by General Milton Hunter in July 1998 stating that all districts should use the Standards for any projects less than 35% complete. The Center WorkSpaces will make implementation easier; the MicroStation WorkSpace is available now, and the WorkSpace for AutoCAD will be available in the near future. The implementation plan incorporates the use of the Workspaces. The Systems FAC group presented the outline of their plan to several members of the Senior Advisory CADD (SAC) Group, who were attending the Bentley Systems International Users Conference in Philadelphia the week of 17 September. The plan should be available for distribution to the field by the end of the Calendar year. The MicroStation Workspace as well as tutorials and training files are available for download on the Center web page at <http://tsc.wes.army.mil> under Products/Utilities.

FAC Group Accomplishments

The Structural FAC Group and Cost FAC group each have a new chair and are getting reorganized. The new chair of the Structural FAC is Lori Taylor, St. Paul District, and the new Cost FAC chair is Gareth Clausen, Walla Walla District. The project submitted by the Cost FAC for the Center FY01 program was approved by the Corporate Staff and Board of Directors. The Structural FAC submitted 5 projects to the SAC group for funding, three of which were funded for FY00, one to be completed in FY01.

The Civil/Site FAC has been working on a FY00 Center Project to develop a Civil/Site Virtual Center of Expertise, which should be available for viewing by the end of the calendar year. Additionally, they submitted three projects to the SAC for funding, one of which was funded for FY00 and two of which are recommended for funding in FY01.

The Electrical/Mechanical FAC has been working on developing electrical elements for the A/E/C CADD standards and the project submitted by them for the Center FY01 program was

approved.

The Systems FAC Group has continued to hold monthly phone conferences, which provide an open forum for the CADD System administrators to air questions and resolve problems. Contact John Kincaid at Rock Island if you want to participate in these calls. The Systems group has been active in reviewing the WorkSpace for MicroStation and has contributed to its enhancements. They worked to initiate development of a WorkSpace Training Course by Bentley which was paid with Corps Select Credits. They are responsible for the Corps Knowledge Base (CKB) web page, have provided file manager enhancements, and are currently working on the Corps A/E/C CADD Standard Implementation Guidance (see article on page 2). This Group worked with the Civil/Site Group in organizing and staffing the FAC Booth at the CADD Symposium – they created the mouse pads and brochures.

Congratulations to all FAC Group Chairs and members for your good work. We are proud of you!!

Interesting Presentation at Bentley International Users Conference (BIUC)

One of the seminars at the BIUC this year presented the accomplishments of a project undertaken by TeamWork, a non-profit British organization similar to the Construction Industry Institute (CII). The project was developed to demonstrate the value of creating a 3-D model during design, using new technology that is being developed, and to show a method for having different disciplines from different private companies work together as a team to produce a viable product. The details of this demonstration can be seen at <http://www.teamwork2000.com/>. The annual users conference sponsored by Bentley Systems was held in Philadelphia, September 17-22. The demonstration project used Bentley's Mechanical and Structural TriForma software products. One lesson learned during this project was that it is essential to develop a team in face to face meetings prior to working in a virtual environment using the new information technology tools being offered by software vendors.

Relatively Painless

A valuable tool on the Corps Knowledge base web site (<http://ckb.wes.army.mil>) is the knowledge base. You can access this information through the link at the bottom of the left side directory. Here you can find information about what software and hardware other districts are using, and a contact to call for more information about how these systems perform. Actually, **you can only get this information about 6 districts -- Rock Island, Sacramento, Seattle, Albuquerque, St. Paul, and Mobile** -- because they are the only ones who have put **all** their data in the system so far. New England and Memphis have posted information about their hardware. **So, what is relatively painless???** Getting your information into the system is the answer. It can all be done right on the web, and the easy instructions are on the web site. This information is valuable to us at Headquarters, and pulling it off the web is much simpler than sending out another survey to the field! We appreciate all those who have posted information so far. Let's all get on the bandwagon and get the information posted so that we don't have to send out another RFI.

Call for Articles

All articles in this issue of the Newsletter were written by Jean McGinn, CECW-EE. I would encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to my e-mail address) for the next issue, which should be issued the end of December